

Haskins Laboratories  
305 East 43rd Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

July 29, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6 Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I found no strain of Rhodospirillum or Rhodospseudomonas palustris which formed good surface colonies under aerobic conditions. This ability appears to be confined to Rhodospseudomonas capsulatus, spheroides and gelatinosa, with R. spheroides and R. gelatinosa showing a somewhat better colony-forming ability. R. gelatinosa, as its name suggests, has the gooier colonies but has the advantage of having higher temperature optima. Perry Wilson has a good assortment of R. spheroides and R. gelatinosa. One of Perry's students, Seymour Lewis, had much the same experience. Our own purple cultures are under paraffin oil and would require considerable delay to get in shape for mailing, but if Perry Wilson hasn't got them handy for you, I'll disinter them.

Mortimer Starr at Davis has been growing Chlamydomonas for some chemists who're looking for flavonols. Ralph Lewin sent 'em C. engametos from Moewus, and we sent 'em C. moewusii. So far the word is, no sign of flavonols. So even from the straight chemical standpoint it doesn't look good for the Moewus canon.

I was able to interest a bright young botanist, Walter Rosen, in continuing Nancy Ziebur's work on trying to set up higher plants for the crucial streptomycin experiment. He's got a pre-doctoral National Science Foundation fellowship which he's taking with Skoog. Starts in September. He and Ziebur worked together on the problem the past year at Ohio State.

Now that Roger Stanier has demonstrated that the photosynthetic pigments in purples are in plastids, the question of the behaviour of purple plastids vis-a-vis streptomycin takes on new interest. We're not doing anything with it.

Belle Allen at the Hopkins Marine Station has a blue-green that grows well in the dark. Might be worth investigating from the streptomycin standpoint.

I recommend Nova Scotia and the Maritime Research Lab at Halifax where Ralph Lewin is comfortably establishing himself as a vacation spot.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S.H. Hutner', written in dark ink.

S.H. Hutner